

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 7-15, and 17-20 are rejected. Claims 6 and 16 are objected to. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 6 and 16 have been canceled. The Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-5, 7-15, and 17-20 and consideration of the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-5, 8-15, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,529,499 (Doshi), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,697,369 (Dziong). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6. Claim 6 is currently objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record.

Based on the foregoing comments, the Applicant contends that claim 1 is allowable in view of the cited references, and such indication is respectfully requested. Independent claim 11 stands rejected for similar reasons as claim 1. Claim 11 contains limitations similar to claim 1 and is therefore allowable over the art of record for the same reasons as claim 1. While separately allowable over the art of record, the remaining dependent claims depend from otherwise allowable independent claims. The Applicant therefore refrains from a discussion of the dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, the Applicant submits that the claims in their present form are allowable. Additional reasons in support of patentability exist, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of clarity and brevity. The Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims.

The Applicant believes no fees are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 210765.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas M. Grover/

SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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